



Criminal Investigation



CJA-241

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Development of Investigative Information

- We will be reviewing the required reading of chapters 10,11,12,13, starting on page # 191.
- The student will be aware of:
 - Investigative processes related to violent crimes
 - Unique Investigative needs special to each crime category
 - Role of medical examination in violent crimes
 - Role of search warrants in violent crime

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Physical Assaults

- 187 pc, Criminal Homicide
 - Death of a human being
 - By a criminal agency (means)
 - The criminal agency was the cause of death
- 1st degree
- 2nd degree
- Manslaughter
 - Negligent acts

Physical Assaults

- Autopsy will always be performed in cases where the deceased was not under a physician's care
 - Most coroner's request a police report describing the incident, prior to the autopsy
 - Natural
 - Accidental
 - Suicide
 - Murder

Physical Assaults

- Murder determination requires 4 things
 - What was the cause of death?
 - What were the means that caused death?
 - Was the homicide excusable or justifiable?
 - Who was responsible for causing death?
- Body cannot be touched prior to the coroner granting authority

Physical Assaults

- Lividity (liver mortis) indicates position following death (1 hr to 4 hrs)
- Wound site recreation
 - Type, size, weight of weapon
 - Amount of force used
- Liver temp (Algor Mortis) indicates approximate time of death (0-20 hrs)
 - Eye jelly
 - Bug development

Physical Assaults

- Body Identification techniques
 - Fingerprinting/footprinting
 - Teeth
 - Old wounds/fractures/surgeries
 - Scars/marks/tattoos
 - Physical deformities
 - DNA comparison
 - Rigor Mortis – stiffening of muscle without shortening (2-6 hr onset – lasts 2-3 days)



Physical Assaults

- Putrefaction (stink) begins immediately
 - Within 24 hours, skin discoloration
 - Autolysis is chemical breakdown causing softening of tissues and liquefaction
 - Bacteria converts tissue into liquids and gases (bloating and smell)
 - Insect larvae, (maggots) can reduce a body to a skeleton in less than 2 months
- Exhumation

Physical Assaults


- Page 202-203 different types of killings
- Stalking
 - Directed @ specific person(s)
 - Alarms, annoys, intimidates, harasses
 - No legitimate purpose
- Assault
 - An attempt or offer to do injury
 - With the current ability to complete offer

Physical Assaults

- Aggravated assault
 - Battery
 - With a deadly weapon
 - Serious injury is sustained by victim
 - Usually a failed murder attempt
- Child Abuse
 - Intentional/deliberate assault on a child
 - Serious bodily injury is inflicted
 - By guardian, etc.


Physical Assaults

- Types of injuries most suspect
 - Skin damage (burns, bruises, abrasions, etc)
 - Brain damage
 - Bone damage
 - Internal injuries
 - Burns are 10% of child abuse cases
 - Immersion (deliberate are even and uniform)
 - Contact (deliberate are deeper and numerous)
 - To the back & butt are especially suspicious

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Physical Assaults

- Shaken baby syndrome
 - < 18 months
 - Retinal hemorrhage
- Munchausen syndrome
 - Patient fabricates symptoms to see doctor
 - Munchausen by proxy
 - Parent will injure or induce illness in children
- SIDS is NOT a medical finding, it is a lack

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Sexual Assaults

- English Common Law defined RAPE
 - Having carnal knowledge
 - Of a female
 - By force (now include fear of force)
 - Without her consent
- The search
- Defense
 - Mistaken identity and a solid alibi
 - Consent was given

Sexual Assaults

- Incest
 - Intercourse (some states = any contact)
 - With brother, sister, parent, child, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece
 - Accusation is usually retracted due to family
- Pedophilia
 - Sexual interest in children
 - Situational - uses children if they are available
 - Preferential - prefers children to adults

Robbery

- Robbery
 - Taking of personal property
 - From the person or presence of the owner
 - Against their will
 - By force or fear
- For “taking” no distance is required, just taking possession
- Kidnapping can be added if
 - Movement of victim increased danger

Robbery

- See People v. Timmons 1969 Calif.
- Usually a “back-up” robber in position
- Robbery checklist on pg 242-244
- Carjacking
 - Theft or attempted theft
 - Of motor vehicle
 - By force or threat
 - From the immediate presence of victim

Arson, Bombing, Hate Crime

- Sir William Blackstone
 - English Common Law
 - Arson
 - Malicious and willful
 - Burning the house or outhouse
 - Of another man
 - Must be proven to be deliberate
 - Must actually cause burning or charring
- Burn Patterns
 - Inverted conical



Arson, Bombing, Hate Crime

- Burn Patterns cont.
 - Fire burns upwards and towards open air
 - Flashover, when the heat builds to the point that every uninvolved combustible in the room ignites
 - Trailers – trails of a combustible
 - Items containing accelerant must be packaged quickly to prevent evaporation
 - Headspace

Arson, Bombing, Hate Crime

- Arson Investigation on page 261-263
- Bombings
 - Taggants
 - Secure entire scene to extent of expelled debris
 - Look up 1947 Texas City Disaster
 - Also known as the S.S. Grandchamp Disaster
 - Ammonium Nitrate was the cargo, 2,300 tons
 - Evidence is NOT destroyed, just made small



This barge was moved inland 150 feet by the force of the tidal wave created when the SS Grandchamp exploded. In the photo on the right, you can see a fire truck imbedded in the top of the barge, with a large piece of the destroyed ship. One of the three ton anchors was located 1.7 miles from the harbor, in a 10 foot crater.

Arson, Bombing, Hate Crime

- Hate Crimes
 - Hate crimes are regular crimes of vandalism, murder, assault, robbery, etc.
 - But, perpetrated on the victim mainly because they are “different” in the eyes of the suspect
 - Usually racially motivated
 - Or directed against a certain government
 - Usually conducted by an individual instead of any particular group



Homework

- Read chapter 14, starting on page # 271.
- Be prepared to discuss Investigations of Property Crimes